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ORIGIN AEC-11

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, BEXP

SUBJ: GOT CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGIES

REF: ANKARA 2547

1. FOR EMBASSY USE, AS APPROPRIATE, THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS WHICH MAY BE USED IN SUPPORT OF LIGHT WATER REACTOR (LWR) SYSTEMS AS OPPOSED OTHER TECHNOLOGIES.

A. ENRICHED URANIUM FUELED LWR REACTORS HAVE ACCUMULATED MUCH MORE OPERATING EXPERIENCE THAN ANY OTHER TYPE INCLUDING NATURAL U FUELED TYPE. LWR HAS DOMINATED IN NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS AROUND THE WORLD FOR THIS REASON AND DUE ALSO TO BROAD BASE OF PROVEN CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE, ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS AND RELIABLE AVAILABILITY OF ENRICHED U FUEL. IN REGARD THIS LATTER NO SHORTAGE IS EXPECTED AND COMPETITION TO SUPPLY IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RAPIDLY DEVELOPING IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES. U.S. HAS GOOD RECORD

IN MAKING ENRICHING SERVICES AVAILABLE ABROAD ON SAME TERMS AS TO U.S. DOMESTIC CUSTOMERS WHO FIND NUCLEAR POWER THEIR CHEAPEST AND BEST OPTION.

B. U.S. REACTOR SUPPLIERS HAVE GREATEST FABRICATION CAPACITY AND PARTS INVENTORY.

C. AS FOR SUPPLY ENRICHING SERVICES, U.S. HAS PROVEN RECORD OF RELIABILITY AS SUPPLIER AND SERVICE HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE ABROAD ON ESSENTIALLY SAME BASIS AS PROVIDED U.S. CUSTOMERS. FURTHERMORE, AEC HAS STATED INTENTION TO SEE THERE IS NO SHORTFALL IN ENRICHING CAPACITY TO FUEL NUCLEAR PROGRAMS OF ITSELF AND FRIENDS. IN ADDITION TO U.S., SOVIETS, EURODIF (FRANCE), URENCO (U.K., FRG, NETHERLANDS CENTRIFUGE GROUP), CURRENTLY OFFERING ENRICHING SERVICES, AND OTHERS IN EUROPE, CANADA AND SOUTH AFRICA MAY IN FUTURE, INSURING NOT ONLY SUPPLY BUT COMPETITION. LARGE DEGREE OF INTEREST THIS AREA INDICATES GENERAL CONVICTION LWR WILL CONTINUE DOMINATE WORLD MARKET. U TO BE ENRICHED FOR FUEL IS WIDELY AVAILABLE ON WORLD MARKET.

D. TURKS MAY WISH TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE OF HEAVY WATER SUPPLY AS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO THAT OF FUEL. ALTHOUGH THE U.S. HAS IN THE PAST SUPPLIED SOME HEAVY WATER FOR USE IN REACTORS ABROAD (AND IN FACT MUCH OF THE CANADIAN PROGRAM TO DATE HAS BEEN DEPENDENT ON U.S. SUPPLY) THE U.S. HAS NO PLANS PRODUCE HEAVY WATER FOR EXPORTS IN LARGE QUANTITIES REQUIRED FOR POWER REACTOR USE. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT SOURCES BUT CANADA WHICH HAS IN PAST HAD DIFFICULTY MEETING OWN NEEDS, NECESSITATING SHUTDOWNS OF SOME REACTORS TO START UP OTHERS. A DECISION TO INSTALL INDIGENOUS HEAVY WATER PLANT FOR OWN SUPPLY NOT PRACTICAL EXCEPT FOR RELATIVELY LARGE, GROWING PROGRAM AND IMPLIES A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO THE NATURAL U TECHNOLOGY.

E. BENEFITS TO TURKEY (OR ANY CUSTOMER) OF LWR INCLUDE HIGH RELIABILITY, HIGH SAFETY MARGIN AND LOW CAPITAL COST PER UNIT OF GENERATING CAPACITY.

F. CHOICE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND FACT THAT FIRST SEVERAL PLANTS SHOULD BE OF SAME GENERAL TYPE TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENT USE OF SCARCE SPECIALIST MANPOWER RESERVES AND SIMPLIFY TRAINING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRAMS FOR BOTH THE OPERATING UTILITY AND THE GOVERNMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM. RESOURCES FOR SUCH EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUNCTIONS ARE MOST WIDELY AVAILABLE FOR LWR TECHNOLOGY.

G. NOTE THAT FRANCE ABANDONED NATURAL U PROGRAM IN FAVOR OF LWR SOME YEARS AGO, FRG WITH NATURAL U TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE CHOSE LWR FOR NATIONAL PROGRAM AND U.K. NOW IN THROES OF RECONSIDERING EARLY TECHNOLOGY CHOICE, GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO LWR.

H. IF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS DEVELOP, AS MAY HAPPEN IN ANY NEW TECHNOLOGY, A MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH BASE (U.K., GERMANY, JAPAN, FRANCE, ITALY, ETC.) WILL ADDRESS THE PROBLEM WHEREAS ONLY RELATIVELY LIMITED INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH BASE AVAILABLE FOR SOLVING PROBLEMS IN HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY WHICH MAY ARISE.

I. THERE IS NOW, AND WILL BE MORE INTENSE COMPETITION IN LWR SUPPLY FIELD TO INSURE FUTURE PROGRAM PRICES. THIS NOT TRUE IN CASE OTHER TECHNOLOGIES.

J. J. ARGUMENT THAT U.S. ARCHITECT-ENGINEER OR CONSULTING FIRMS NOT AS COMPETENT AS FOREIGN FIRMS IN EVALUATING RELATIVE MERITS OF NATURAL VERSUS ENRICHED SYSTEMS NOT VALID. U.S. FIRMS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SUCH EVALUATIONS IN PAST. OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE IS TECHNICAL COMPETENCE OF STAFF AND EXPERIENCE IN SUCH WORK.

K. AEC EXPLORING POSSIBILITY HAVING TECH REP VISIT. WILL INFORM RESULTS LATER. KISSINGER

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